

RELEASED IN FULL

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PTQ4246

PAGE 01 KIGALI 01421 051029Z
ACTION PM-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-01	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/017W

-----C28E3A 051044Z /38

O 051028Z MAY 95

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECDEF WASHDC//OASD-SOLIC-HR// IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0629

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4-SA// IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J3/J5// IMMEDIATE

INFO DIA WASHDC//DH-6//

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 001421

FROM AMBASSADOR RAWSON

DEPARTMENT FOR PM AND AF

E.O. 12356: DECL 5 YEARS FROM DATE

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, PINS, PREL, RW

SUBJECT: DEMINING EFFORT MUST GO FORWARD

REF: A. PHONECON BTWN LTC BARILICH/EUCOM AND LTC
ODOM/AMEMBASSY KIGALI RWANDA OF 4 MAY 95 (U)

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PAGE 02 KIGALI 01421 051029Z

B. PHONECON BTWN COL WALL/J-5 AND LTC ODOM/AMEMBASSY

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KIGALI 4 MAY 95. (U)

C. AMEMBASSY KIGALI 1416 DTG 050826Z MAY 95 (U)

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT

2. OUR KIGALI COUNTRY TEAM IS TROUBLED BY THE REPORT PASSED VIA REF A., THAT THE JOINT STAFF HAS CONCERNS REGARDING THE IMMINENT DEPLOYMENT OF THE DEMINING TRAINING TEAM TO RWANDA. THESE CONCERNS STEMMED, WE UNDERSTAND, FROM A PREOCCUPATION WITH THE SECURITY SITUATION IN RWANDA IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE KIBEHO INCIDENT AS EXPRESSED IN REF B. WE HAVE SENT OUT A SPECIAL SECURITY ASSESSMENT, REF C., IN RESPONSE.

3. TO ADDRESS THE FACTUAL SITUATION FIRST, THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT IN RWANDA IS, IF ANYTHING, IMPROVED SINCE KIBEHO. COMMANDERS OF SECURITY FORCES ARE EXERCISING GREATER CONTROL OVER THE RANKS AND SECURITY SERVICES BEING MORE ATTENTIVE TO MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE AMONGST THE POPULATION. ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, THE GOVERNMENT AND SECURITY FORCES SINCE KIBEHO HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE COOPERATIVE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND SOLICITOUS OF AN IMPROVED WORKING RELATIONSHIP.

4. IN THE POLICY DIMENSION, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICA AFFAIRS MOOSE AND DELEGATION (MAJOR GENERAL HEFLEBOWER AND AMBASSADOR FRIEDMAN) ASSURED THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT AND THE WORLD PRESS LAST WEEK THAT OUR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS OUR ASSISTANCE TO RECONSTITUTING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM, WERE URGENT

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PAGE 03 KIGALI 01421 051029Z
PRIORITIES "THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE."

5. THE DEMINING TRAINING PROGRAM WAS A CENTRAL PART OF THAT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE EFFORT, RESPONDING IN A VERY PRACTICAL WAY TO THE AFTERMATH OF WAR AND THE THREAT OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DEVICES TO LIFE AND LIMB OF RWANDA'S PEOPLE. THE PROGRAM WAS IDEAL IN ITS EMPHASIS ON TRAINING TRAINERS AND ON POPULAR EDUCATION. IT IS NEEDED NOW BEFORE THERE ARE ANYMORE CASUALTIES FROM MINES, AND IN RESPONSE TO CONSIDERABLE RWANDAN

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GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO GET FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL READY FOR THE PROGRAM. WE HAVE AS WELL WORKED OUT A PROGRAM THAT PLACES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS OPERATION WITH THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT. WE NEED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THIS PROGRAM BEFORE SOME ENTHUSIASTIC NGO MESSES UP THE WHOLE DEMINING STRATEGY BY TRYING TO TAKE OVER THIS HIGH PROFILE TERRITORY.

6. THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA HAS ALREADY INTERPRETED THE INITIAL DELAY OF THE DEMINING TEAM (DUE TO REDEPLOYMENT FROM HAITI) AS A POLITICAL SIGNAL FROM THE US GOVERNMENT. A FURTHER DELAY WOULD BE RECEIVED AS OUR GOVERNMENT PREJUDGING THE OUTCOME OF THE KIBEHO INVESTIGATION AND CUTTING OFF A MUCH SOLICITED HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM AS EVIDENCE OF THAT JUDGMENT.

7. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE RWANDAN PEOPLE NEED A DEMINING TRAINING PROGRAM AND THAT OUR ARMED FORCES ARE THE BEST SITUATED TO PROVIDE THAT TRAINING. IF WE WANT CHANGED BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT, WE MUST ENGAGE THIS GOVERNMENT WITH CONCRETE PROGRAMS AS
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PAGE 04 KIGALI 01421 051029Z
OPPOSED TO PROMISES OF FUTURE ASSISTANCE. WE FURTHER
CONTEND THAT SUCH PROGRAMS SHOULD ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT
TO OPERATE AS A GOVERNMENT: IN THIS CASE, TRAINING OF
RWANDANS TO MANAGE THEIR OWN DEMINING PROGRAM. WE URGE
DEPLOYMENT OF THE INITIAL PHASE OF DEMINING TRAINING ON
MAY 8 AS SCHEDULED. RAWSON

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